



A FEW STATUES LEFT ... One lonely shepherd, two kings, and a few sheep are still in need of families to carry them in the Manger Procession at the beginning of the 6:30 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. Interested? Write to keeney@hcrosschurch.org or call 301-942-8790. First come, first served!



100,000 ELECTRONIC LETTERS FOR LIFE

Pro-Life Action Needed. There are more than 40 pregnancy resource centers in Maryland that provide life-affirming, free support to pregnant women in need. The abortion industry has launched a nation-wide campaign to eliminate its competition by shutting down pregnancy resource centers. The Maryland General Assembly will likely consider legislation during the 2009 session that would seriously hinder the ability of these centers to provide assistance to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Holy Cross Parish will hold an electronic letter-writing campaign after Masses next week, on December 13 and 14, to enable parishioners to contact their lawmakers about this and other life-related issues. Please plan now to participate next week by taking a minute to fill out a very simple form.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

SOR IN DECEMBER This month, the SOR will meet on the following Sundays only: December 7th, 14th, and 21st. The Advent shoeboxes for the Gift of Peace Home are due on Sunday, December 14th.

TWO FAMILY MASSES ON CHRISTMAS EVE

- Please note that **NO TICKETS** will be issued this year for the **4:00 PM Mass** on Christmas Eve. This popular Mass includes our beautiful Children's Pageant and is always very, very crowded. The church fills very quickly; come early if you want a seat.
- The **6:30 PM Mass** is another option for your family on Christmas Eve. This Mass begins with a lovely Procession of the Nativity Figures to the Manger.

Extension of Donor Advantages Offered by 2006 IRA Laws:

Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, if you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift to Holy Cross Church using funds directly transferred from your IRA. Normally all withdrawals from traditional IRAs are taxable as ordinary income. However, you can avoid the tax by directing your IRA to send the money to a charity instead. The amount transferred counts towards the minimum required distribution for a donor's IRA account and generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction. This opportunity has been extended to include 2008. IRA trustees should be set up to handle this. Just be sure that the check is written directly to Holy Cross Church. If it's written to you, it's taxable.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: Please stop by the Scholastic Book Fair in the school library after all Masses on December 7th. If



you can't make it on Sunday stop by during school hours that week. Don't miss a great opportunity to get some Christmas shopping done and to help support Holy Cross School. More information about the fair and a preview of some of the great books that will be arriving can be found at

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/hcross>. We look forward to seeing you there.

CHRISTMAS CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE after all Masses on December 6th - 7th. Share the joy of Christmas with your friends and family while donating to Right to Life of Montgomery County.



You are cordially invited to the Holy Cross Middle School Choir Concert. Enjoy an afternoon of holiday song Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 1:30 in Lewis Hall.

Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, celebrated on Monday, December 8th, is the only **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION** that is not lifted when it falls on a Saturday or Monday. We will have Masses at 6:45 AM, 9 AM, 12 Noon, and 7:30 PM. Please join us!



DON'T KNOW WHAT TO GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS?

We now have MACY'S certificates in \$25 denominations. Holy Cross earns 10% on Macy's certificates. We buy them at a discount and sell them at face value. There is no easier way to support Holy Cross than by buying

merchandise certificates. We also sell Grosvenor Market, Safeway, Giant and Shoppers Food certificates in various denominations for all your food purchases, Christmas baking and party needs- even prescriptions and stamps! **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM!**

DO YOU DRIVE TO THE NOON MASS? We need a few volunteers to add to our list of those who are able to drive



parishioners to the noon Mass or other Masses or to visit the doctor. This is an occasional need, and a real gift to our parish. If you can offer this assistance from time to time, or if you are in need, please call Pat Chingari 301-468-9486 to add your name and phone number to the list.



Bible TimeLine - Opportunity Time! If you missed any of the first 8 sessions of the Bible TimeLine you will have an opportunity to view them next Sunday, December 14, in the school library. The DVD's will be available after the 7:30 Mass and throughout the morning until 12:30. There will be showings at 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30. The first 8 DVD's cover Genesis through Numbers: Creation and Early World, the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob), Egypt and the Exodus, and Desert Wanderings. Please call ahead to let us know which DVD you want to see (Dave and Barb Ruppert 301 933-7646). This is also a good opportunity for new participants to preview the series to see if you might like to join us in the Winter/Spring session. All are welcome!

Are You Searching for Something Special to Do during Advent? Why not make time in your schedule for a visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? He is Emmanuel, "God with us"! The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - check the weekly schedule in this bulletin for the exact times.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Perhaps it will be helpful to know now that during the weeks of Christmas and New Year there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. You may still make a visit if you wish but the regular Adoration program will end the evening of December 18 and recommence on Tuesday, January 6 at 6PM.

Come Home for Christmas: Confessions and religious item sale: The Church of the Little Flower, 5607 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, is holding a Come Home for Christmas event on Saturday, December 13. Confessions will be heard in various languages from 9:00 AM-Noon and 1:00 PM-5:00 PM. A Penance Service will be held at Noon. Religious books and other items are available for sale. For more information, call 301-320-4538.

Riding Metro? Look for the "Come Home for Christmas" ads during the month of December. The ads, featuring an image of the Nativity, are sponsored each year by several of our downtown parishes.

Men's Vocation Retreat: Archbishop Wuerl is sponsoring a retreat (February 6-8, 2009) for men in their 20's-40's who are considering a call to the priesthood. The retreat will be held at Theological College, Friday evening, February 6 through Sunday, February 8 at noon. The retreat will allow men time away from the daily grind and provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God's call. If you feel Jesus may be calling you, why not give Him a weekend? It will cost you nothing more than your time. To register or for more information, contact Msgr. Rob Panke, Director of Priest Vocations, at 301-853-4580 or vocations@adw.org.

CHRIST IN THE CITY (FOR YOUNG ADULTS): Christ in the



City is a ministry of the Office of Young Adult Ministry that specifically focuses on spiritual growth and provides an opportunity to establish a relationship with Christ truly present in the Eucharist. On the second Thursday of each month, young adults from across the city congregate at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 10th and G Streets, NW, Washington, DC to pray and worship. Stop in for a few minutes or join us for the entire

service. Either way, your prayer life will be enriched by the experience.

The evening starts with a 7:00 PM Rosary. From 7:30 PM-8:30 PM, there will be Eucharistic Adoration, Praise and Worship, Confession available and Reflection. St. Patrick's is Metro accessible via Metro Center's 11th Street exit or Chinatown's 9th Street exit. Free parking at the garage on Tenth Street between G and H. Bring your ticket to the sacristy for validation. Upcoming dates: Dec. 11 and Jan. 8.

CAC INVITES SINGLE CATHOLICS, 21 and over, who are free to marry in the Church, to a Christmas dinner dance on Saturday, December 13 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 9707 Rosensteel Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. Mass will be celebrated by our chaplain at 6:00 pm at St. John's Church, 10103 Georgia Avenue, followed by cocktails and dinner from 7:00 – 9 PM, and dancing at 9 PM, both at the Knights of Columbus. Dinner reservations should be received by **December 9** (\$28 members, \$33 nonmembers). Those attending only the dance may pay at the door (\$12 members, \$16 nonmembers) and do not need reservations. For more information, contact George McCabe at 703-768-4243; georgemccabe@usa.net or visit our web site at <http://www.dcsinglecatholicpro.org>.

Lessons & Carols

Christmas Lessons and Carols: All are invited to St. Bernadette Catholic Church on FRIDAY, December 19, 2008 at 7:30 PM to participate in Lessons & Carols sung by the Choir of Communion and Liberation together with the I Cantori children's choir. Light refreshments will follow. St. Bernadette's is located at 70 University Blvd. E in Silver Spring, MD. Communion and Liberation is an ecclesial movement of the Catholic Church. For further details call 301-588-4259.

Advent Lessons and Carols: All are invited to this free concert by the combined choirs of the Church of the Little Flower and St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, **Sunday, December 7**, 4:00 PM at St. Dunstan's, 5450 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda. For more information, call 301-320-4538.

To see the bulletin ONLINE, go to our website at www.hcrosschurch.org

December 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his encyclical, *Spe salvi*, Pope Benedict XVI writes, "The...Loving God requires an interior freedom from all possessions and all material goods: the love of God is revealed in responsibility for others."

Many of us can call to mind a sister, brother, or religious priest who has lived this ideal of love that demands trust in Providence and acceptance of financial insecurity. The majority of religious in the United States today are over 60 years old and a significant number, over 80. They continue in active ministry long into what would normally be considered retirement years and, in keeping with their vows and religious commitment, continue to pray for us throughout their lives. They also are not exempt from the challenges of aging that so many in our own families face.

The large number of elderly religious and the level of care they need mean many religious communities are finding it nearly impossible to meet rapidly escalating health care costs. They depend on the generosity of the faithful through the **Retirement Fund for Religious on the weekend of December 13-14** for financial assistance, particularly for those in need of skilled nursing care.

Please hold our religious in your heart and in your prayer. Journey with them in hope, and grow with them in love as they have spent their lives doing with you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop-elect Barry Knestout
Vicar for Administration

Support Life! On December 10th, pro-abortion groups will present petitions asking the United Nation's General Assembly to make abortion a universally recognized human right. The **Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute** created an alternate petition drive that calls for government to interpret the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as protecting human life from the moment of conception to natural death. They need at least 100,000 signatures by December 10th, the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Please go to the Website: <http://www.c-fam.org/publications/id.95/default.asp> and sign the petition. Please help pass this information on. Thank you.

ARE YOU GOING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING? Getting your Giving Tree gift? Don't leave home without your merchandise certificates! We now have MACY certificates in \$25 denominations

Schedule for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to serve
2nd Weekend 12/13/08 & 12/14/08

5:00 PM	Carlos Hernandez; Nancy Gallagher
7:30 AM	Stephan Beauchesne; Charlotte King; Martha Matocha
9:00 AM	Annemarie Rogers; Paul Whelan; Peter Ramjug
10:30 AM	Pat & Millie Durbin; alternate: Denise & John Szczur
12 Noon	Carlos Hernandez; Virginia Perdone

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

7 SUNDAY	10:15 -- 11:30 AM	Second Sunday of Advent SOR Classes (school)
8 MONDAY	6:45 -- 8:15 PM	Immaculate Conception (HOLY DAY) Matthew Bible Study (<i>Quinn Hall</i>)
9 TUESDAY	3:10 PM -- 3:45 PM: 6:00 PM -- 12:00 AM:	St. Juan Diego Christmas Pageant Choir Rehearsal (church) Eucharistic Adoration (<i>Quinn Hall</i>)
10 WEDNESDAY	12:00 AM -- 11:00 PM: 7:00 PM -- 8:30 PM:	Eucharistic Adoration (<i>Quinn Hall</i>) RCIA
11 THURSDAY	9:00 AM -- 11:00 PM:	Pope Damasus I Eucharistic Adoration (<i>Quinn Hall</i>)
12 FRIDAY		Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 SATURDAY	9:00 AM:	St. Lucy Confessions
14 SUNDAY		Third Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 8, 2008

6:45 AM	Geneveive Ann Deikel	9:00 AM	Avrillo & Irena Bottone
12:00 PM	Thanksgiving	7:30 PM	Sheila & Francis Richardson

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

6:45 AM	Raymond Murray	8:30 AM	Bob Pock
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Wednesday, December 10, 2008

6:45 AM	Peggy O'Brien Hunt	8:30 AM	Young Joo & Paul Lim families (living)
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Thursday, December 11, 2008

6:45 AM	Peggy O'Brien Hunt	8:30 AM	Richard Gandolfo
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Friday, December 12, 2008

6:45 AM	Peggy O'Brien Hunt	8:30 AM	Noel Woll
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Saturday, December 13, 2008

8:30 AM	Josephine Smith		
5:00 PM	Anna M. Capozzola		Fr. Perkins

Sunday, December 14, 2008

7:30 AM	People of Holy Cross		Fr. Perkins
9:00 AM	Thomas Troy		Fr. Yaga
10:30 AM	Betty Van Maenen		Msgr. Hill
12:00 PM	Cecilia Lima & Juracy Maria		Msgr. Hill

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Daniela Anderson; Bob Beatty; Felipe Caraan; Thomas Choi; Young Choi; Sister Collette Marie, csc; John DeConcini; Anne & Mark Eller; Hans & Rupert Finke; Angelina Goffreda; Michael Gouzoulis; Leonard W. Harsel; Larry Heitkemper; Saunder Jacobson; Mary Miller; Philip Moyer; Richard Mlynarczyk; Pat Obrimski; Anthony Paige; Daniel Pereira; Adrienne Quenneville; Bonnie Ridenhower; Martha Scully; Mirella Setien; Rebecca Shephard; Jacqueline Surmeier; Nicoletta Stephanz; Jim Taylor; Elizabeth Tolton; Dorothy Turner; Jim Weikert; Jane Whalen; Roland Young

COLLECTIONS:

Offertory 4th Sunday of November 2008.....	\$ 7,422.58
Offertory 4th Sunday of November 2007.....	\$ 6,575.57
Offertory 5th Sunday of November 2008.....	\$ 6,484.15
POOR BOX Father McKenna Center	\$ 167.77
Xavier Society for the Blind	\$ 138.32
12/7 Social Concerns; 12/14 Rockville Pregnancy center	